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THE CLARION

PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS



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I'm Salam Omar, the multimedia editor for The Clarion. I'm from Palestine and have a background in media journalism, SEO and digital content creation. I have worked with several Arabic websites, and I'm passionate about combining journalism and digital marketing to create meaningful and engaging experiences for audiences.

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LETTER

From the Editor

Welcome and welcome back, Tartans.

Along with the rest of Sinclair's activities, The Clarion tends to slow down over the summer. We don't produce a magazine May-July, and we publish fewer stories on our website.

With this in mind, I expected to have plenty of time to organize the office and get rid of things that have been collecting dust in drawers since the 1990s. I had plans to revamp the entire 70-page handbook and assemble a team of dedicated, sharply skilled writers to hit the ground running in August. After all, I had months of free time.

As some more experienced readers may have already guessed, most of these plans for ultra-productivity went up in smoke. Increasingly, I'm reminded of the adage that "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans."

When do things actually go to plan in life? Was your summer everything you hoped it would be? While I certainly hope it was, most everyone in the region has had something unexpected to grapple with.

The revocation of Temporary Protective Status for Haiti and Syria, record-setting wildfire smoke and diarrheal parasites, and an absent Senate majority leader have made for a collectively tumultuous summer. Continuously and rapidly, we are shifting into "new normals."

Even in the face of constant shifts, myself and the Clarion team are looking forward to getting back to whatever "normal" is going to be.

Our reporters may now be fewer in quantity, but they more than make up for this in quality. Our graphic designer, Dia Bekbolotova, is returning from her internship while our managing editor, Jacie Moore, is just beginning hers.

After the growth of last year and our 50th anniversary approaching, we are excited to keep stepping forward—and if you're reading this, you probably are, too.

Whether you are a student, faculty member, or just someone interested in free, student-led journalism, we invite you to think about your next steps while embracing the chaos of life along the way.

Let's continue to "make God laugh," while still making important strides this year.



Hannah Kichline. CONTRIBUTED

"As some more experienced readers may have already guessed, most of these plans for ultra-productivity went up in smoke. Increasingly, I'm reminded of the adage that 'if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.'"

- Hannah Kichline

Editorial

AI is not journalism

Clarion Staff



A computer can never be held accountable, therefore a computer must never be allowed to make a management decision.” The quote comes from an International Business Machines (IBM) manual published in 1979, and it grows more relevant every day.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become commonplace more quickly than regulations can keep up, making the dystopian sci-fi future that likely inspired the above quote feel eerily possible.

Its rise, however rapid, doesn’t seem to be happening organically. A Pew Research Center report from March 2026 showed that half of U.S. adults are more concerned than excited about the effects of AI on society, followed by 38% who are equally concerned and excited.

Most of the concern they cited revolved around its effects on human creativity and relationships.

There is enough to say on this topic to fuel a lifetime of study, and it likely will. The rise of AI has already sparked philosophical debates on what constitutes personality and artistic expression, as well as changes to the political landscape and natural environment.

For this staff’s part, this column will focus on AI within the field of journalism.

The ethos of journalism as a whole is to expose the truth and make information accessible. However, trust in news reporting has reached new lows as of October of last year; according to a Gallup poll, only 8% of Republicans and 27% of Independents said they trust mass media “a good deal or fair amount,” while 51% of Democrats said they did.

In 2026, AI takes an already polarized, distrustful populace and muddies the channels of information even further. People simply don’t know what to believe, and adding AI-generated images and articles to the mix is like dumping gasoline onto a fire.

Journalists should be held to high standards and continually maintain their credibility. Their audience has the right to question them. But in a world of AI, the things we should be able to depend on as “proof” such as photos and recordings are no longer reliable.

This has wider implications in the world of crime and corruption. In a world of increasingly sophisticated AI, how does one prove—or disprove—anything?

Credibility is diminished or even destroyed when a reporter is found to have used AI. A journalist should be able to interpret raw, factual data and translate it for their audience without injecting their own bias—something AI has not been able to replicate.

AI knows how to promote and advertise, but it does not know how to be unbiased. Large-language models (LLMs) are programmed to agree, make its current user happy and create a repeat customer.

This is in wide contrast to the job of a journalist who may handle delicate, even tragic or gruesome stories. The work requires the “human element” and constant interrogation of the ethics involved.

AI also does not always yield reliable results. An LLM or Google overview will sooner produce false answers than no answers, meaning no discerning researcher should present these findings as fact. Any journalist who does this earns every bit of the public’s distrust.

Aside from the ethical catastrophe it presents, AI-generated writing is just plain bad. It can check the boxes of a prompt and fill a word count, but if a reader examines the writing closely, they will quickly find that it is vague, monotonous and missing a crucial note of relatability.

This is more subtle in certain cases than others, especially as models integrate the option to “humanize” text, but it is nearly always detectable. There is a reason AI-generated content is commonly referred to as “slop.”

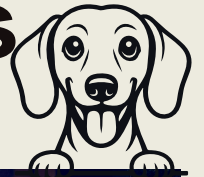
At this early stage in AI’s evolution, The Clarion has a zero-tolerance policy for its use. Student journalists need to practice the skills of real research and interpretation in order to meet the high standards of the field we are entering.

Every article and design on these pages is a product of human skill, and readers are always encouraged to open a dialogue if they suspect otherwise.

Fireworks and Furry Friends

The Centerville campus got a snuggly surprise this summer

Clarion Staff



Students enjoying their time with puppies. ERIK LARSON



A light-up sign and balloons from an America 250 celebration.

AMISHA DAHAL



Puppies from the Humane Society of Greater Dayton. ERIK LARSON



A Centerville student holding a puppy. ERIK LARSON



Fireworks at an America 250 celebration. AMISHA DAHAL



2026 FALL

MONDAY, AUG 24 - THURSDAY, AUG 27



DAYTON CAMPUS

AUG. 24

Welcome Stations
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Create & Caffeinate
9-10:30 a.m.
Bldg 4-341, Innovation Lab

Aloha! Sinclair
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Outside Bldg 10 Welcome Center

AUG. 25

Welcome Stations
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The Resiliency Center
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Bldg 10-424

Boots, Beats & Barnyard Bash
Noon to 2 p.m.
Behind Bldg 10, Green Space

AUG. 26

Turn Over a New Leaf
10 a.m. to Noon
Library, NE Loggia

Pop-On-By: Find the Leader in YOU
Noon to 1 p.m.
Library, NE Loggia

AUG. 27

Wake Up to Internships
8-10 a.m.
Bldg 11-346, hallway outside of office

Tartan Lawn Party
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Outside, Bldg 14 Lawn Area



CENTERVILLE CAMPUS



AUG. 24

Welcome Stations
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Fresh Fit for Fall
8:30-11:30 a.m.
Welcome Desk & Cafe

Pop-On-By: Find the Leader in YOU
10:30 a.m. to Noon

AUG. 25

Welcome Station & Free Coffee
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Welcome Desk & Café

Blessing Bead Creation Station
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Across from service desk

AUG. 26

Welcome Station & Free Coffee
8 a.m. to Noon
Welcome Desk & Café

Create & Caffeinate
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Student Lounge

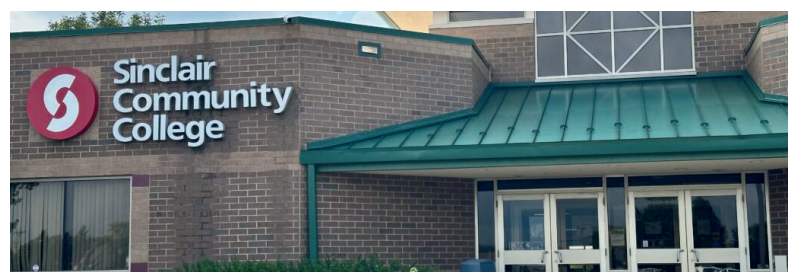
AUG. 27

Welcome Station & Free Coffee
8:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m
Welcome Desk & Café

Welcome Week Campus Pizza Party
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Main Lobby



MASON CAMPUS



AUG. 24

Welcome Stations
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
CVA Lobby/CVB Lobby

Kickstart Your Day & Your Semester with Coffee & Cappuccino
8-10 a.m.
CVA Lobby

Make Your Own Keychain!
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
CVA 102

AUG. 25

Welcome Stations
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m
CVA Lobby/CVB Lobby

Kickstart Your Day & Your Semester with Free Coffee & Cappuccino
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
CVA Lobby

Mason Student Club Fair
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

AUG. 26

Advisor Resource Table
9:30 a.m to Noon
CVA Lobby

Kona Ice Truck
Noon to 1 p.m.
Outside, near CVA entrance

AUG. 27

Advisor Resource Table
9:30 a.m. to Noon
CVA Lobby

Welcome Week Bash
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
CVB Community Room & Picnic Area

Tartan Spotlight

Nadine Cichy, longtime communication faculty, steps into new role

Erik Larson, reporter

Nadine Cichy has served as a communication faculty member at Sinclair College, and on Aug. 17 she assumed a new role as the communication department

chair. Cichy has been teaching since 2003 and started at Sinclair in 2008.

Cichy said it is interesting looking back because her career started somewhat by accident. She had been finishing up an undergraduate degree when she happened to meet a visiting author who taught communication at Purdue University.

"I asked him a question about his research, and he said, 'I never considered that.' And he said, 'How would you like to come to Purdue with a scholarship?'" Cichy said. "So that's how I ended up at Purdue studying communication, and I was there with a graduate teaching assistantship."

The assistantship paid for Cichy's tuition. It also meant that she was teaching as well as taking classes, and found that she loved the teaching more than the research.

After earning a bachelor's from Virginia Tech, Cichy went on to obtain her master's from Purdue, and then came to Ohio in 2008 after finding the position at Sinclair.

Cichy explained how communication is often misunderstood or not given enough credit.

"I love my discipline," she said. "I think most people feel like, 'I've learned as much about communication as I can, because I already know how to talk and interact with others, and I'm interacting with others reasonably successfully,' and don't realize that everything you know about communication is a skill that you learned, and every skill that you've ever learned can be improved."

Cichy said one thing that really stands out to her are the stories about students and how they overcame difficulties.

She noted one student who had children before they were really ready to be an adult. Between drug and alcohol recovery and trying to raise young kids, the student came to college knowing they needed to find a path to support their kids but not feeling prepared.

The student said that the class Cichy taught turned things around for them, and helped them to start caring about themselves and having confidence that they could be successful.



Nadine Cichy, new communication department chair.
CONTRIBUTED

"I've always taught interpersonal communication, which is really about having a relationship with yourself so you can have relationships with others," Cichy said. "In so many ways, what is happening with you predetermines what is going to happen in your interactions with anyone else."

Cichy described the graduation of that student as a wonderful moment, but credited the student and the curriculum with the student succeeding. She sees herself as a steward for moving the right lessons to the right people.

**"I love my discipline. I think most people... don't realize that everything you know about communication is a skill you have learned."
- Nadine Cichy**

"Spotlight" continued on page 9

“Spotlight” continued from page 8

Cichy said that the study and theories do the real work. “But if I can't make the curriculum engaging and real for students, if I can't help them apply it to their own lives, then it's not going to do anything,” she said.

Part of the curriculum for mass communication focuses on the related history. Cichy would typically try to start with something that is currently happening, go back to its earliest historical occurrence, and then bring it back to the present to show the evolution of the idea. For example, in the case of mass communication the history of television is very relevant, but in order to understand the history of television you need to understand the history of radio which preceded it.

“Students tell me they find that a lot more engaging, because they can relate it to their own experiences,” she said. “So it's not just something that happened that they have to memorize, it's something that is helping them understand their current reality.”

Cichy also described how AI relates to modern communication. Cichy clarified that AI isn't all bad, as it can be useful for brainstorming or for assisting very early in the creative process. However she said it's important to not rely on AI when actually writing things, “because the way you write significantly changes the impression that people have of you professionally, and so you are communicating by writing.”

“A lot of students don't realize that it's still relatively easy to figure out if someone is using AI if you've actually communicated with them in person. Because AI doesn't sound like you. AI sounds like everybody and nobody at the same time,” Cichy said.

In regards to her new role as department chair, Cichy said she wants to help a group of people who are already doing amazing work to continue to accomplish great things.

“I don't see this as something where I'm starting something [new], I see this as continuing to facilitate that innovation and growth,” she said. “All the things they're doing are wonderful things, but we have to keep moving into the future.”

THINGS TO DO BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN:



FUNDING FOR SCHOOL

How are you paying for school?

[Financial Aid](#)
[Scholarships](#)
[Payment Plan](#)

[CHECK YOUR
FINANCIAL AID
STUDENT PORTAL](#)



REVIEW YOUR SCHEDULE

Does your schedule fit your life?

[Registration Title](#)
[My Schedule >Term Statement](#)

[IMPORTANT DATES](#)
[MODALITY/LOCATION](#)
[TERM WAITLIST](#)



PAY FOR CLASSES

Check your fee bill. Is there a balance due?

[Financial Aid, Scholarships, Self-pay, and/or Sponsored](#)

[PAYMENT DEADLINES](#)
[METHODS OF PAYMENT](#)



ORDER BOOKS

Did you order or purchase your books?

[Registration Title >](#)
[My Booklist](#)

[eCampus Bookstore](#)

THINGS TO DO WHEN CLASSES BEGIN:



CLICK ON E-LEARN TILE

Did you put calendar reminders for all due dates?

[Review syllabus for each class](#)

[NOTE ALL DUE DATES FOR
TESTS & ASSIGNMENTS](#)



PLAN TIME TO STUDY

Where and when will you study for class?

[Schedule time weekly](#)
[to complete your coursework](#)



SEEK SUPPORT

What will you do if you need help?

[Library Lib Guides](#)
[Tutoring](#)
[Student Services](#)
[Academic Advising](#)
[IT Help Desk](#)



ATTEND EVENTS

Did you see all the great things happening on campus?

[Enhance your experience](#)
[on campus](#)

[SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING
ON CAMPUS](#)

Clarion Cuisine

For Creole comfort, look no further than Flavor House

Hannah Kichline, executive editor

August 2026

This month's featured restaurant moved locations last year, but retained all that made it stand out in Dayton's culinary scene. It opened as "1Eleven Flavor House" on Ludlow Street in 2021 and now occupies the space that used to be Table 33, on the corner of West Second and North Wilkinson Street.

Flavor House describes its menu as "Caribbean and Creole comfort food," and this fits it to a tee. Each dish is delightfully distinct, putting a savory spin on something familiar.

Their recipes include a diverse cocktail menu, Southern-inspired starters and signature desserts. Main courses include seafood, gumbo and sandwiches such as the oxtail and dijon. It's clear to visitors that Flavor House takes great pride in their menu, and they should.

I should be clear that this is a review, not an advertisement, and Clarion Cuisines are not always this glowing. I can usually find at least one thing I would change about the experience. But our visit to Flavor House left me with one prevailing word at the top of my notes: "Wow."

We visited on a Tuesday before the dinner rush and had Omar as our host and server. There only seemed to be a few people working for the weeknight, but the staff was knowledgeable, professional and clearly knew what they were doing. After careful consideration of the menu, we settled on the Chickpeas and Potatoes with Roti, the Caribbean Rum Glazed Salmon, and the Flavor House Rolls.

The vegetables and spices in the chickpea dish were simmered to what can only be described as perfection. This was a beautiful rendition of how curry is prepared all over the world—not spicy, just complex and balanced. The expertly toasted and seasoned roti triangles were not an afterthought, but an intentional part of the meal.

I'm not ashamed to say I was scraping the sauce out of the bowl to get every possible bite, or that I actually dreamed about the dish days later.

The salmon was covered in a sweet, almost syrupy coconut rum sauce that left a pleasant lingering flavor on the tongue. The tender cut of fish was almost outshone by the accompanying mashed potatoes, loaded with garlic and butter. The word "exquisite" would not be wasted here.

The Flavor House Rolls served as a fresh offset to the heavier items. Served with a sweet chili sauce, they held crisp cabbage, collard greens and chicken within an egg roll wrapper. I highly recommend these as their own snack, or as an accompaniment or palate cleanser.

While on the higher end of price, Flavor House is worth the splurge, especially to celebrate a milestone or reward oneself for the pressures of balancing work, school and family. Visitors will likely be just as smitten with it as I am—and should be warned that they may dream about it after.



Flavor House's Caribbean Rum Glazed Salmon. HANNAH KICHLINE



Chickpeas and Potatoes with Roti, paired with a Magnolia Mule cocktail. HANNAH KICHLINE



The Flavor House Rolls with sweet chili sauce. HANNAH KICHLINE



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Fall Semester

WORD SEARCH

Bring your
completed word
search to Room
6-313 for a
prize!

E I H I M Y S T U D E N T Z Q K D D
D G C Z X Y T A R T A N S E T K Y R
U Q A Z E C A M P U S U C C E S S P
C B A C K P A C K S E M E S T E R R
A L C O L L E G E Z U P U K U M L O
T W A V X X K T I S I N C L A I R F
I V J R A D A Y T O N O H I O X N E
O R H W I U F O A D V I S O R R N S
N I V Y C O M M U N I C A T I O N S
L U R L B D N K N O W L E D G E L O
S U C C E S S M E Q W W F A L L S R
D M T L E A R N I N G A G R L S G L



**SINCLAIR COLLEGE FALL CLARION KNOWLEDGE SUCCESS
COMMUNICATION DAYTON TARTANS OHIO PROFESSOR
ADVISOR LEARNING EDUCATION SUCCESS SEMESTER
BACKPACK CAMPUS STUDENT COMMUNITY CAREER FUTURE
OPPORTUNITY**

A Summer of Social Work

Sid O'Brien led group of aspiring 'hope dealers' through hands-on program

Hannah Kichline, executive editor



The graduating cohort of the first H.E.R.E. program.
HANNAH KICHLINE

The Higher Education Resource Exchange, or "H.E.R.E.," had its inaugural run this summer, leading seven Sinclair students to strengthen their skills and community resources over the course of 12 weeks.

Rebecca "Sid" O'Brien founded and led the program as part of their internship at U.C., where they are completing a bachelor's degree in social work while working at Sinclair as an administrative assistant.

"The program was and is supposed to be open to all students," said O'Brien. "It was targeted towards helping-profession students, but in my mind, that isn't just social work. It's sociology, it's political science, it's even culinary."

They said the idea for H.E.R.E. came from talking with a friend who had gone through a similar program at the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI). NLI allowed her to go "behind the scenes" and see how various public works operate.

"And I said, 'Man, I really wish something like that existed for community service stuff, like food banks and other nonprofits that are doing the helping-profession work,'" they said. "And her standard answer was like, 'Well, then do that.'"

Collaboration helped shape every aspect of H.E.R.E. as it developed. O'Brien said they worked with Professor Jennifer McDermott to plot the program week by week, came up with its name with the help of a friend in marketing, and enjoyed seeing the participating students take ownership of the experience throughout.

O'Brien said they planned for each week to revolve around a theme that helping professionals would need to be familiar with, such as housing security, re-entry and criminal justice, and non-discrimination.

Community partners including Sinclair faculty, Have a Gay Day, Gem City Market, The Black Panthers and Dayton United for Human Rights met with the students for discussions, tours and real-world experience.

The hands-on nature of the program was especially important to O'Brien, who said that it is often missing from early mainstream social work education.

"The way that the exchange was supposed to work, because it's a resource exchange, is my students were to meet with a community partner and get two hours of their time, like a training or something like that," said O'Brien. "And then the students would go out and give 'sweat equity' in exchange for the time."

They said that not every organization had a physical space for students to volunteer, so they would instead make requests or recommend other places that participants could go and help.

Each student then teamed up with an organization for a project of their choosing. Among other topics, some produced training materials for Miami Valley Meals while others focused on improved accessibility both within the college and across the state.

These projects were presented at H.E.R.E.'s graduation ceremony on July 31. Program graduates and their guests enjoyed dinner, a sundae bar and exchanges of gifts and gratitude.

"HERE" continued on page 13

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Bearcat.



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admissions.uc.edu/visit



At University of Cincinnati, transfer students don't just finish their degrees — they find belonging, purpose, and momentum. Whether you're mapping your next move, exploring majors, or seeking a campus that sees and supports you, there's no better way to start than with a visit.

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Explore UC from wherever you are with a live, one-hour online session about transfer admissions and a virtual campus tour.

CINCINNATI OPEN HOUSE

Our most robust visit option where students can meet with Transfer Center reps, colleges, financial aid, and campus services.



"HERE" continued from page 12

"As far as studies go, I couldn't have hand-selected a better pool of like, just the widest range of identities and goals," O'Brien said.

The group ranged in age from 19 to 54 and came with differences in background, religion and ability. O'Brien encouraged them all to trust each other, respect boundaries and experiment while surrounded by a team who could offer support.

H.E.R.E. will continue at Sinclair, led next semester by two program graduates, Virginia "Vie" Jones and Tawnya Salazar.

This year's cohort of "hope dealers," as they call themselves, is leaving the program with a network of professionals and fellow students who can help them navigate the field.

O'Brien said one of their biggest takeaways was the difference between mentorship and sponsorship. The concept was explained to the group by Michael Carter, senior advisor to the college president and director of the Our American Journey exhibit in Building 11.

"I wanted this program to lend them a level of sponsorship to be like, 'Here's a student who went through this program. They're responsible, they're dedicated, they show up, they'll do what they say they'll do,'" they said. "I don't think I realized how important that was to me until I heard someone phrase it a little differently."



Attendees at H.E.R.E.'s graduation ceremony on July 31. HANNAH KICHLINE



Program participants exchanged gifts and hugs as they wrapped up the graduation ceremony. HANNAH KICHLINE

Advice from Advising

Tips for academic success straight from the source

Josofine Addison, reporter

What's next after registering for classes? New and returning students alike may face challenges throughout the incoming semester. Many Sinclair students balance their academic endeavors with full-time jobs and caring for their families.

Karla Knepper, Sinclair's director of academic advising, offers five pieces of advice for all students to ensure academic success throughout the fall semester.

Attend class.

The first step to acing a class is showing up and taking a seat. Log into eLearn weekly, starting at the beginning of the semester, and communicate with your instructor in case of missed classes.

"Sinclair faculty are amazing," Knepper said, adding that they are always available to support students and be a guide to catching up in case of absence.

Manage your time.

Understanding one's schedule is a key component to setting up academic success.

"It's really important for students to look at their whole week and look at, like, when do you have classes? When do you work, when do you have childcare?" said Knepper.

Self-awareness is key to figuring out what balance looks like, she said. Step back, look at the upcoming week and work out priorities.

Always work proactively on assignments; Knepper emphasized the importance of turning in assignments in a timely manner and not minutes before they are due.

Keep reminders.

Knepper explained that keeping a visual schedule and handwritten notes around her home have helped her to work more efficiently and continue to leave a lasting impact on Sinclair's student body.

Filling in time blocks, keeping a calendar, or leaving post-it notes on frequently used areas like the bathroom mirror can improve focus on assignments. This can also help track any obstacles students may face during the semester.

Communicate with advisors and classmates.

"Find a friend," said Knepper. Communicate with instructors and advisors, and find a classmates to collaborate with, keep you accountable, and help you catch up if you missed class.



Karla Knepper, director of academic advising at Sinclair.
CONTRIBUTED

Knepper recommends talking with your advisor about which classes you are taking and what they can offer for your long-term goals.

She also stressed the resources available on campus. Sinclair offers services through their writing, math and biology labs; tutoring center; counseling and various student accommodations.

"We are a very, very lucky school in that we've got lots of student support services, so use those resources," she said.

Find your "why" and remember it.

Sinclair hosts countless success stories, which extend beyond the years spent in school.

"It is amazing to see how students leave campus and immediately give back to the community," Knepper said.

Knepper recounted times when she has watched students make their way through the graduation tunnel and how each journey was unique. Some students were the caretakers of their families, other students were in their sixties and seventies, while others were still in their teenage years. Every student has a "why."

She noted that challenges along the way should be embraced. "It's supposed to be hard, and the 'hard' is kind of what makes it great," she said.

A sense of purpose can be vital in making it to the end of the graduation tunnel. Students who find their "why" and allow it to carry them forward may be pleasantly surprised by their academic success.



The Clarion's Poetry Corner

A Room that Still Smells Like Smoke

Delila "Storm" Brown, addiction services major

I didn't start fighting addiction until I got clean.
 Before that it wasn't a war, it was a surrender.
 White flag stitched into my veins, hands up, eyes closed, letting it take whatever it wanted time,
 teeth, trust, pieces of me I didn't even realize were missing until there was nothing left to steal.
 Addiction didn't have to chase me. I walked myself to it, laid down at its feet like Here. Take it.
 Take all of it.
 And it did.
 It took my voice and replaced it with cravings. Took my reflection and replaced it with survival.
 Took my future and shrank it down to just make it through the next hour.
 That wasn't a fight.
 Getting clean? That's when the war started.
 That's when I realized addiction never left it just got louder when I stopped listening.
 Now it follows me around like a ghost that knows my name better than I do.
 I'll be washing dishes it's there.
 I'll be laughing it's there.
 I'll be holding my life in both hands, finally something soft, something real, something mine and
 it whispers:
 You could lose all of this.
 Three and a half years clean and I still think about it like a song stuck in my head that I never
 liked in the first place.
 I get depressed my brain says: escape.
 I get manic my brain says: amplify.
 Worst day of my life? You know what would numb this.
 Best day of my life? You know what would make this better.
 It doesn't care what I feel. It just wants a door.
 Any door.
 Recovery isn't this glowing sunrise people like to paint it as.
 It's waking up every day and choosing not to burn your life down even when the match is
 already in your hand.
 It's building something beautiful while standing in a room that still smells like smoke.
 It's learning that peace and chaos can live in the same body at the same time.
 I am happy.
 I have a life I don't want to escape from.
 I have moments that feel full, real, mine.
 and I still think about using.
 Not because I want to die. Not because I hate my life. But because addiction doesn't speak logic,
 it speaks memory.
 And memory is a liar with a soft voice.
 So yeah, I fight now.
 Not with fists but with routines, therapy sessions, quiet decisions no one claps for.
 I fight by staying.
 By feeling everything I used to run from.
 By choosing a life that sometimes hurts over a numbness that almost killed me.
 Because the truth is
 Back then, addiction was kicking my ass and I wasn't even trying to get up.
 Now?
 Now I get knocked down and I stand back up anyway.
 Every. Single. Time.
 And maybe that's what winning looks like.
 Not silence. Not peace without interruption.
 But choosing, over and over again,
 to live a life that addiction can't have back.



ICYMI: 5 Summer Stories

For Sinclair, a quieter campus did not mean a lack of activity

Hannah Kichline, executive editor

Summer is the quietest semester on campus, but there was no shortage of stories from within and outside of Sinclair College. While The Clarion takes a break from printing a magazine, online content is year-round. Below are five online-exclusives that readers may have missed from our website.

01

Campus Updates

With fewer students on campus, summer is a popular time for improvement projects.

Crews replaced the concrete's protective membrane on the third level of Parking Garage A, as well as internal water systems in Buildings 1-4, resulting in the temporary loss of hot water.

Access to Buildings 13 and 8 were limited by these projects, but they were planned to finish before the start of fall semester on Aug. 24.



Blocked-off construction areas in Parking Garage A. NOAH SCHLARMAN

Check out construction photos here:



The Adjunct Faculty Support Office also moved to the second floor of Building 7, giving it closer proximity to the Tartan Marketplace, Library and H.R. office.



Clarion advisor Jessica Graue and executive editor Noah Schlarman received high honors from the Society of Professional Journalists. CONTRIBUTED

02

Clarion Staff and Advisor Recognized by SPJ

The Ohio chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awarded the 2026 Emil Dansker Award for Outstanding Achievement in Journalism to Jessica Graue, The Clarion's advisor.

"It's probably the biggest honor I've received in my professional life so far," Graue said. She is the sole journalism professor at the college.

Noah Schlarman, then-executive editor of the outlet, was awarded second place for Best News Writing and called it "surreal, especially knowing The Clarion had never won an SPJ award before."

The achievement brought a sense of validation to Schlarman's chosen career path. Since leaving The Clarion, he has advanced to working at WHIO.

"ICYMI" continued on page 17

“ICYMI” continued from page 16

03

AIGA Design Educators Conference

With the help of Zack Tucker, new chair of the design department, Sinclair became the first community college to host the American Institute of Graphic Art (AIGA)’s Design Educators Conference.

AIGA was founded in 1914 and the educators conferences have been held since 2005 at colleges across the country.

Running July 27-28, experts from the design field gathered for workshops based not only on skill, but nuanced topics like disability and empathy in design.

Find out more about AIGA and the conference held at Sinclair this year:



This July, Sinclair became the first community college to host the AIGA Design Educators Conference.
HANNAH KICHLINE

04

House Bill 698

Readers may remember The Clarion’s coverage of Senate Bill 1, which was signed into law by Gov. DeWine in March 2025. Among other things, the law required the dissolution of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and low-graduation programs at Ohio colleges.

One criticism of SB 1 was that its guidelines were vague and difficult to follow. House Bill 698 is called the “S.B. 1 Compliance Supplemental Appropriation Act” and gives specifics on how state officials would track compliance. It has been in committee since February.

Public colleges risk losing state funding if they are found non-compliant with SB 1 and HB 698.



Rep. Tom Young introduced HB 698 to supplement SB 1.
LEGISLATURE.GOV

05

Behind the Brews: Sinclair Coffee Feature

Jessie Peacock, manager of Sinclair Coffee in the center of the Library, brings creativity, new recipes and a love of interacting with customers to her role.

Peacock has enjoyed hospitality in several forms, including as a bartender and a banquet chef in Building 12. From running a staff to curating a drink menu, Peacock takes pride in customers coming back to enjoy the cafe.

Sinclair Coffee operates under shortened hours during the summer and will be back to regular business for fall and spring semester.



Jessie Peacock, manager of Sinclair Coffee.
JEAN-LUC NSABINDORA

5 Upcoming Fall Events

The Dayton area offers plenty to look forward to as the seasons change

Luc Nsabindora, reporter

Summer is winding down and the region is shifting into thinking about fall. Though it's sad to see the warm weather go, fall offers its own activities.

Cool temperatures, changing leaves and local festivities make fall a favorite time of year for many adventurous explorers. From spending quality time with loved ones to supporting local artists and musicians, the Dayton area is packed with exciting options.

Here are five upcoming fall events readers won't want to miss.



#1

The Dayton Art Institute.
DAYTONARTINSTITUTE.ORG

Dayton Art Institute Family Open Studio

Every Saturday, art lovers can spend quality time together at the Dayton Art Institute's Family Open Studio.

Included with museum admission, this activity allows visitors of all ages to explore one of Dayton's most popular museums and create their own masterpiece. Materials are provided and families are encouraged to have fun with different art mediums in a stress-free environment.



#2

Thousands attend the Ohio Renaissance Festival yearly.
RENFESTIVAL.COM

Ohio Renaissance Festival

Every year, thousands take a step back in time with a trip to the Ohio Renaissance Festival. Presented through themed weekends, this fall festival offers fun for the entire family.

Attendees can experience jousting tournaments, enjoy live entertainment, and browse artisan shops—and don't forget to dress in period costumes. You can even find traditional festival foods to indulge in while spending a day or weekend at "Ren Fest."



#3

A sign for Dayton Oktoberfest.
DAYTONARTINSTITUTE.ORG

Dayton Oktoberfest

Spend time at Dayton Oktoberfest during the last weekend of September and see what makes it "Dayton's favorite fall tradition." Visitors from all over enjoy authentic German food, local artisans, lively entertainment and of course a large selection of brews.

Children can enjoy seasonal activities throughout the festival, making it another great option for families.



People gather at Dayton Oktoberfest.
DAYTONARTINSTITUTE.ORG

"5 Events" continued on page 19

"5 Events" continued from page 18

Attendees at previous Hispanic Heritage Festival. PACODAYTON.ORG

#4

Heritage Festivals

September may be past the height of festival season in the region, but there are still many cultural events to enjoy. The Dayton Greek Festival and Hispanic Heritage Festival will each offer a wide variety of traditional foods, live music, dance performances and opportunities to broaden one's understanding.

Scan the QR code to visit our website and discover more photos, stories, and upcoming events.



People dancing in the street. ISTOCK



#5

The inside of the Schuster Center. DAYTON LIVE

Broadway in Dayton

Daytonians will have many opportunities to catch a Broadway show this fall. Offering world-class entertainment to the Schuster Center, Broadway trips are a perfect way to enjoy the cooler weather. "The Notebook," "Clue" and "Hamilton" will all be part of the 2026-2027 season.

From award-winning musicals and hilarious live performances to beloved festivals, there is something for everyone at Broadway in Dayton. Grab a pumpkin spice latte and get out there; fall is coming and these events are not to be missed.



Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center. DAYTON LIVE

PLAN YOUR PATH

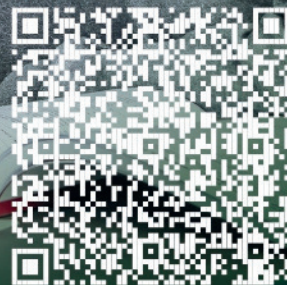
TO A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Wright State University and Sinclair College are partnered to help you start achieving your dreams with a seamless transfer pathway, allowing you to maximize your time and money.

Take the first step toward furthering your education by joining the Wright Path program at Wright State.



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WRIGHT PATH PROGRAM

WRIGHT.EDU/SINCLAIR